

XXVI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 363.]

48. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. Nos. 61 & 62, January and April 1907.]

Mr. W. Eagle Clarke begins the annual volume with details of the acquisition of an example of the Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus tristis*) at the Sule Skerry lighthouse, 33 miles west of Orkney, on the night of September 23rd, 1902. Having been sent in methylated spirits, this addition to the list of wanderers to the British Islands was not immediately examined and identified. Mr. Norman B. Kinnear (a grandson, we believe, of that distinguished naturalist Sir William Jardine) follows with the first portion of some notes on the Birds seen in the Outer Hebrides during the spring of 1906, of which the conclusion is given in the April number (pp. 81–85). The identification, by the author and his companion Mr. Bahr, of a solitary Ptarmigan on the low-lying portion of South Uist, recalls the statement of John MacGillivray in 1841 that the species was then found in that island on Ben More and Hecla; in fact, as we are now told, birds were seen on the latter as recently as 1900. Of considerable interest is a paper by Mr. J. Tomison, Principal Light-keeper at Skerryvore, on the birds observed at that dangerous reef; but the duplication of the record of the Yellow-browed Warbler (p. 25 and p. 51) may involve some compiler in confusion. The April number also contains Mr. Eagle Clarke's second paper on the birds of Fair Isle, and the merits of that small and detached spot as an observatory are extolled: but the Red-rumped Swallow and other rarities have been already enumerated in his first paper as well as noticed in our pages (*supra*, p. 198). In the Zoological Notes, Mr. E. T. Clarke, a taxidermist of Cheltenham, records a pair of Rustic Buntings sent to him from Learney, Torphins, Aberdeenshire, as long ago as April 9th, 1905, but unchronicled till now. In Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, an American Wigeon was shot on

January 3rd, and has been presented to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. Mr. W. Steuart Menzies states that in Moray he is "now trying to acclimatise Norwegian Rype or Willow-Grouse, which, if successful, may possibly cross with our red grouse." Quite so: and, if he is successful in the attempt, he may destroy the characteristics of our insular form.—H. S.

49. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxiv. Nos. 1 & 2, January and April 1907.]

Mr. C. W. Beebe has a paper of general interest on the behaviour and intellectual development of two chicks of the Great Northern Diver, from the time of hatching until their deaths on the twelfth day, due to a sudden fall in temperature. The conclusions, drawn from the author's observations, are too valuable to be given in abstract, and should be read in their entirety. Mr. Ruthven Deane sends a third instalment of correspondence between Audubon and Spencer F. Baird, extending from 1842 to April 24th, 1847. Mr. James H. Fleming, whose Water-birds of Toronto, Canada, we noticed in a former issue (*suprà*, p. 200), now contributes a paper on the Land-birds of that area, raising to 200 the total of ascertained species: the Passenger-Pigeon being announced as undoubtedly extinct! A report is given of the 24th Congress of the A. O. U., held last November, and, apart from subjects of local interest, the somewhat belated record of a male example of our Teal near Portland, Maine, in April 1903, closes the January number. More than our fair share of obloquy awaits us in April, for under the American name of "English" Sparrow, Mr. A. H. Estabrook makes a vehement but thoroughly justifiable onslaught upon *Passer domesticus*, winding up with "a recommendation to have the whole country do this extermination, now, at once, and all over the United States." This is "thorough," but on our side of the water the Sparrow is in no danger, for there are sentimentalists who are ready to

interfere on behalf of this bold robber and expatriator of useful species. Plate iii. is a curious tripartite representation of the Marbled Godwit on its breeding-grounds; and in pl. iv. Mr. Allan Brooks (son of a former M.B.O.U., we believe) gives a pretty illustration of a hybrid between Richardson's Grouse and the Sharp-tailed Grouse. Mr. Wither Stone (pp. 189-199) has a paper on "Some Changes in the Current Generic Names of North-American Birds"; the changes in many cases upsetting the nomenclature familiar to us. For the full advantage to be derived from this paper, it should be studied along with Dr. J. A. Allen's "The First Species Rule for Determining Types of Genera—How it works in Ornithology" (Science, n. s. xxv. pp. 516-554), and "The Types of the North-American Genera of Birds" (Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxiii. pp. 279-384).—H. S.

50. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. v. No. 5. London: March 1907.]

This number contains only three principal papers, the first by Capt. B. R. Horsburgh on *Otis cerulescens* (pl.), the second by Mr. R. Phillipps giving further notes on the Regent Bird, and the third by Mr. Meade-Waldo entitled "Some Remarks on Birds seen during the Cruise of the 'Valhalla,' R.Y.S." No special remarks seem necessary, but attention may be drawn to the picture of several specimens of Abbott's Ibis on Aldabra, accompanying the last article.

51. Balducci on the Sternum in Italian Birds.

[Morfologia dello sterno degli Uccelli Italiani d. prof. dott. Enrico Balducci. Roma, 1906. (Boll. Soc. Zool. Ital. pp. 10.)]

Prof. Balducci is planning the preparation of a general work on the sternum in Italian Birds, which will be useful when complete. The present fragment relates only to the Owls, and contains mainly measurements and outline figures of the sterna of the ten Italian species.

52. *Beebe on 'The Bird.'*

[The Bird, its Form and Function. By C. William Beebe. With over three hundred and seventy illustrations, chiefly photographed from life by the Author. Westminster: Constable & Co., Ltd., 1907. Price 14s. net.]

Many of our readers are, no doubt, acquainted with Mr. Beebe's attractive account of his expedition to Mexico in search of birds in 1903-4, entitled 'Two Bird-lovers in Mexico'*. We have now before us another volume, not less interesting to the Ornithologist, but more severe in character, in which the author deals with his favourite subject as a whole, under the simple designation of 'The Bird,' calling it "an untechnical study of the bird in the abstract." Mr. Beebe intends his book as an invitation "for each to observe for himself the marvellously fascinating drama of evolution: to pass on from the nature-stories of idealised composite animals to the consideration of the evolution of all life; and to the tales of time and truth which have been patiently gleaned by the life-long labours of thousands of students." This is perhaps rather "tall writing," but our author explains 'the Bird' and all that relates to it in a series of simply written essays, which anyone can understand, and illustrates his statements by a large number of photographic text-figures, many of which are excellent, though some might be improved upon.

Mr. Beebe first discusses the extinct species of former geological epochs, as everyone interested in Ornithology should know something about the extraordinary forms of bird-life that existed in past ages. But he passes on quickly to the birds of the present day and describes their feathers, framework, organs of nutrition, muscles, and nerves in a series of chapters which shew at once that he is master of every part of his subject. This is, indeed, what we might have expected, for the author is not only an experienced student of Ornithology, who has devoted his life to the subject, but is also head of the bird-department in the famous Zoological Park of New York.

* See 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 580.

We can, therefore, conscientiously recommend Mr. Beebe's work to those who are anxious for condensed information on the general characters and structure of 'The Bird,' and we can truly say there is no other publication with which we are acquainted that contains such information in so readable a form and is so profusely equipped with appropriate illustrations.

53. *Beebe on Swans.*

[The Swans. By C. William Beebe. Reprinted from the Tenth Annual Report of the New York Zoological Society. 26 pp. 8vo.]

Mr. Beebe has taken the opportunity of examples of all the certainly known species of Swans being exhibited in the Zoological Park of New York to prepare a nicely written essay on these ornamental birds, which fully deserve all the praise that he accords to them. It is illustrated by good text-figures, by the aid of which the seven species may be easily recognised. Mr. Beebe's statements about the different forms are, we believe, generally well founded, though we should hesitate to place entire faith in the story of the "dying Swan's song" given on page 8. Mr. Beebe assumes that the so-called *Cygnus davidi* of North-east China is only "a variant" of *Cygnus bewicki*. But this is by no means certain, and it is quite possible, we think, that it may still turn out to be a good species, especially considering what Prof. Giglioli has written on the subject.

54. *Berlepsch on new Neotropical Birds.*

[Descriptions of new Species and Conspecies of Neotropical Birds. By Hans, Graf von Berlepsch. Ornith. xiv. p. 347.]

Graf v. Berlepsch described at the recent meeting of the International Ornithological Congress thirty new species and conspecies of Neotropical Birds, chiefly based on specimens in his own Collection. They are called *Heleodytes harterti* (Colomb. occ.), *Basileuterus bivittatus chlorophrys* (Equat. occ.), *Calospiza formosa sinuipitalis* (Brasil. centr.), *Phenicothraupis rubica amabilis* (Bolivia), *Chlorothraupis carmioli frenata* (Peruv. orient.), *Sycalis goeldii* (Amaz. inf.),

Phrygilus alaudinus excelsus (Bolivia alta), *Poospiza hypochondrica affinis* (Tucuman), *Agriornis livida fortis* (Patagonia orient.), *Myiotheretes striaticollis pallidus* (Tucuman), *Ochthoeca leucophrys tucumana* (Tucuman), *O. polionota pacifica* (Bolivia), *Todirostrum hypospodium* (Colomb.), *T. schulzi* (Bras. bor.), *Idioptilon** *rothschildi* (Cayenne), *Pogonotriccus venezuelanus* (Venezuela), *Mecocerculus hellmayri* (Boliv.), *Tyranniscus petersi* (Venezuela), *Capsiempis leucophrys* (Colomb.), *Cotinga simoni* (Colomb. occ. merid.), *Synallaxis fuscipennis* (Boliv.), *Siptornis baeri* (Argent. occ.), *S. sordida affinis* (Tucuman), *Thripadectes briceñoi* (Merida), *T. sclateri* (Colomb. occ. merid.), *Philydor colombianus boticianus* (Boliv.), *Thamnophilus heterocercus* (Boliv.), *T. dinellii* (Tucuman), *T. connectens* (Boliv. orient.), and *Nothoprocta ornata rostrata* (Tucuman).

Cotinga simoni, a southern representative of *C. ridgwayi* of Costa Rica, was discovered by Gustav Hopke at S. José Dagua, in South-western Colombia.

55. Berlepsch's Studies on the Tyrannidæ.

[Studien über Tyranniden. Von Hans, Graf von Berlepsch. Proc IVth Intern. Orn. Congress, p. 463.]

It is good news that Graf v. Berlepsch, as he tells us, has taken up the special study of the Tyrannidæ, one of the most difficult groups of the Neogean Ornis, and is proposing to make them the subject of a monograph. No Ornithologist knows the Tyrannidæ better, or has a richer collection of them at his command.

In the present memoir the Count discusses the genera, one after the other, nearly as arranged in the 14th volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds' (prepared by Selater in 1888), and gives notes on each of them, correcting former errors and adding remarks on recently described species.

Knipolegus aterrimus heterogyua (from Peru) is described as a new subspecies, and two new generic names are proposed—*Xanthomyias* (type *Muscicapa virescens* Temm.) and *Oreomyias* (type *Pogonotriccus plumbeiceps* Lawrence).

* *Idioptilon*, gen nov. Tyrannidarum.

Some reference to Lillo's *Pseudocolopterus dinellianus* (which is not known to the Count) may probably be found in that writer's article on the birds of Tucuman which we noticed in 1903 ('Ibis,' 1903, p. 422).

56. Berlepsch on the Genus *Elainea*.

[On the Genus *Elainia* Sund. By Hans, Graf von Berlepsch. Proc. IVth Intern. Orn. Congress, p. 372.]

As a solid contribution to his promised monograph of the Tyrannidae, Graf v. Berlepsch presents us with an elaborate essay on the numerous and complicated species of the genus *Elainea* *.

After short disquisitions on the natural position, distribution, habits, and nesting of these birds and a complete list of the literature of the subject, the author reviews the 39 species recognised by him. The following species and subspecies have new names:—*E. martinica caymanensis* (Grand Cayman Isl.), *E. m. complexa* (Cayman Brac), *E. m. remota* (Cozumel Isl.), *E. pelzelni* (Rio Negro), *E. brachyptera* (Colomb.), *E. obscura tambillana* (N. Peru), *E. gaimardi guianensis* (Guiana), *E. g. bogotensis* (Colomb.), and *E. viridicata delicata* (Bahia). A key for the more ready determination of the species follows, then a table of their distribution, next a list of the species which have been erroneously referred to the genus, and lastly a list of those that are represented in the author's collection. This is indeed a good piece of work. We wish that all other essays of the sort were equally complete.

57. Bickerton on the Birds of Hertfordshire.

[Notes on Birds observed in Hertfordshire during the Year 1906. By William Bickerton. Trans. Hertfordsh. N. H. Society, xiii. p. 49 (1907).]

Mr. Bickerton is able to add only one species to the list of Hertfordshire Birds in 1906. This is Leach's Petrel (*Oceano-*

* The author writes this word "*Elainia*," but there can be no question that, its derivation being *ελαγιεύς* (*oleagineus*), it is more correctly spelt "*Elainea*," as suggested by Cabanis and Heine. We cannot allow that errors ought not to be amended. See our author's remarks on this point (footnote, *op. cit.* p. 383).

aroma leucorrhoea), an example of which was found in Cassio-bury Park in November last. A still more interesting fact for Ornithologists is the reappearance of the Bearded Titmouse (*Panurus biarmicus*) in Hertfordshire in January 1905, the last specimen previously recorded having been met with in July 1888. Many other occurrences are given in his excellent article by Mr. Bickerton, who now claims 223 species as belonging to the Avifauna of the county.

58. *B. O. C. Migration Report.*

[Report on the Immigrations of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1906. Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, vol. xx. London, 1907. 189 pp.]

In any report on Migration it is obvious that no safe conclusions can be drawn from the results of a single year, and we must wait for a considerable time before a reliable summary can be attempted; but all work of this description is useful, and we are more anxious to wish every success to the undertaking than to criticize the details at present submitted. Meanwhile the returns from the Light-stations are of especial interest, and the records of the state of the weather on the different days of the months are important items. The records of the earliest date of breeding of the various species should also form a distinct feature in the work, but these at present leave much to be desired, as they are scanty and belated. Hundreds more of observers are required, no area being yet sufficiently represented, while several counties do not furnish a single reporter. This being so, many arrivals must of necessity be overlooked; for example, it is impossible to suppose that only a single Land-rail appeared in Essex during the season.

We suggest that the district watched by each observer should be stated next year, and not merely his county, while the exact locality where each observation was made should be added to the record.

On p. 12 we do not understand how a species included in section A can also be placed in section D; there appears to be some mistake in the wording.

59. Dresser's 'Eggs of the Birds of Europe.'

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. Pts. VII., VIII. May 1907. Pp. 213-288; 8 pls.]

These two parts of Mr. Dresser's work, which are issued simultaneously, are concerned with the genera *Accentor*, *Panurus*, *Acredula*, *Parus*, *Lophophanes*, *Ægithalus*, *Sitta*, *Certhia*, *Tichodroma*, *Troglodytes*, *Motacilla*, *Anthus*, *Pycnonotus*, *Oriolus*, and *Lanius*. Under each head the author enumerates the various subspecies which have been proposed and comments on their validity, while also discussing the proper generic name. Perhaps his treatment of the forms of *Acredula*, *Parus*, and *Lanius* is the most worthy of attention, while the nesting-habits of the different species of Nuthatch are the most interesting of the details. *Parus salicarius* (= *borealis*) is accepted as breeding in Great Britain, but *Troglodytes hirtensis* of St. Kilda does not meet with recognition. It may be true that the Grey Wagtail has two broods in the season, but we should like to be sure that the later nests are not merely those of birds who have met with some mishap in their earlier attempts, as, from our experience, belated nests are extremely rare.

The plates come out extremely well and, as a rule, give a good idea of the variation of colour in the eggs, but in *Parus palustris*, *Certhia familiaris*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, and some other cases there is a slight deficiency in this respect.

Pleasing woodcuts are given of the nests of many species, though, as is so often the case, they frequently give an incorrect impression of the surroundings.

Besides the eggs of species mentioned in the text, figures are given of those of *Cisticola*, *Scotocerca*, *Prinia*, *Telephonus*, *Ampelis*, *Muscicapa*, *Hirundo*, *Chelidon*, *Cotile*, *Carduelis*, *Chrysomitris*, *Serinus*, *Ligurinus*, *Passer*, *Petronia*, and *Coccothraustes*.

60. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularise the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. vi. pt. 3, Jan. 1907.]

This part contains the Report of the Sixth (Hobart) Session of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, with a subordinate report on birds that have struck lighthouses. The President, Col. C. S. Ryan, of Victoria, addressed the meeting on "The Protection of Native Birds," while attention was drawn to the need of a "Check-List."

The chief articles are by Mr. D. Le Souef, on a new Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisornis rudolphi huntii*) from British New Guinea, and by Col. Legge, on the Emus of Tasmania and King Island. For the latter small form the name *Dromæus bassi* was proposed, but only to be withdrawn almost simultaneously. Mr. F. L. Berney prints a fourth part of his paper on the birds of the Richmond district in N. Queensland (with many details of nidification), Mr. A. G. Campbell writes on the rearing of a Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), and Mr. Mattingley on the same species and *Cuculus pallidus*.

Plate x. illustrates the home of *Sphenura broadbenti*, and the nest and eggs of *Pycnoptilus floccosus*; pl. xi. the nesting of *Sterna bergii*. The accompanying notes will be read with interest; as also will the suggested identification of the Golden of Dampier with *Butorides stagnatilis*, to be found in the "Correspondence."

61. Hall's 'Glimpses of Australian Bird-life.'

[Glimpses of Australian Bird-life. Thirty-one original Photographs direct from Nature. With Notes by Robert Hall, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S. Melbourne, 1906. Price 1s.]

Mr. Hall's "booklet" gives us a few words on each of the photographic pictures prepared mostly by his "fellow-naturalist" Mr. A. H. Mattingley, to which, however, other friends and the author have contributed. Some of the pictures are very good, others are not quite so successful. It would have been better, we think, to have added the

scientific names to the vernacular, as some of the popular Australian terms would be likely to mislead a European reader.

62. *Hartert's 'Birds of the Palearctic Fauna.'*

[Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. Von Dr. Ernst Hartert. Heft iv.* Berlin, 1907.]

In the fourth part of this important work the Paridæ—under which family-name Dr. Hartert arranges the three subfamilies Parinæ, Regulinæ, and Paradoxornithinæ—are brought to a conclusion. After the typical *Parus*, 93 in number, are taken the aberrant genera *Ægithalus* (ser. *Acredula*), *Anthoscopus*, and *Cephalopyrus*, which add some 20 more forms to the list, and make the Palearctic Parinæ 115 in number. The new subspecies indicated are *Parus major cashmirensis*, *P. m. tibetanus*, *P. m. okinawæ*, *P. cæruleus ogliastræ* (Sardinia and Corsica), and *P. lugubris anatolicus*. According to the nomenclature here adopted our British Tits would be *Parus major newtoni*, *P. cæruleus obscurus*, *P. ater britannicus*, *P. cristatus scoticus*, *P. palustris dresseri*, and *Ægithalus caudatus roseus*, besides the newly-discovered and somewhat problematical *Parus atricapillus kleinschmidti*.

The subfamily Regulinæ comprehends the genera *Regulus*, *Leptopœcile*, and *Lophobasileus*. Our Goldcrest is named *Regulus regulus anglorum*. *Leptopœcile sophia deserticola* is a new subspecies from the desert-land south of the Gobi.

In the diagnosis of the subfamilies (p. 340) *Panurus* is put among the Parinæ, but the so-called "Bearded Tit" is subsequently (p. 403) moved into the company of the Paradoxornithinæ. This, we agree with Dr. Hartert, is probably its better position, but a comparison of its internal structure with that of *Paradoxornis* has still to be made.

The Paradoxornithine forms that, according to Dr. Hartert, intrude into the Palearctic Fauna in Eastern Asia are 16 in number and belong to the genera *Cholornis*, *Suthora*, *Psittiparus*, and *Conostoma*.

* Cf. 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 194.

Next to the Paridæ come the Laniidæ—another very difficult group, with numerous Palæarctic representatives, which it is by no means easy to handle in a satisfactory manner. We are glad to see that the author puts all the typical Shrikes together under *Lanius*, and does not allow the numerous subgenera which have been proposed of late years. Dr. Hartert's Palæarctic *Lanii* are 36 in number, whereof one, *L. excubitor bianchii*, is a newly-named subspecies from Saghaliën. Whether "*Lanius senator*" of Linnæus's tenth edition can be correctly assigned to the Woodchat is disputable, though Dr. Hartert is strongly in favour of this procedure. Besides the true *Lanii* only two Palæarctic birds are assigned to this family, *Telophonus cucullatus* and *Hypocolius ampelinus*. We agree with Dr. Hartert in being a little doubtful about the alleged African localities of the latter, though it may possibly occur on the Abyssinian littoral.

The next family treated is that of the Waxwings. But while he calls the family "Ampelidæ," the author reverts to the long-rejected term *Bombycilla* for a generic name. It is quite sufficient for us that in the twelfth edition of the 'Systema' Linnæus placed "*Ampelis garrulus*" at the head of his genus, and we do not understand why his name should not be adopted.

Two families that follow next, the Brachypodidæ (*scr.* Pycnonotidæ) and the Campephagidæ, are but feebly represented in Palæarctis. Dr. Hartert admits 12 representatives of the former and 4 of the latter group, amongst which we find two new subspecies, *Hypsipetes amaurotis stejnegeri* and *H. a. ogawæ* from some of the Japanese islands.

The rest of the present number is occupied by the Muscicapidæ, under which term Dr. Hartert would include the Sylviidæ, Timeliidæ, and Turdidæ, or the greater part of them. This will raise the family to gigantic dimensions, and it will be better to defer the discussion of it until the publication of the remainder, as only the true Flycatchers and part of the genus *Phylloscopus* are included in this number.

We may, however, remark that the proposed change of the name of *Muscicapa grisola* to *Muscicapa striata striata* will not, we believe, find many followers. As we have said before, such a change is not a reform, but a revolution!

63. Hartert's 'Miscellanea Ornithologica.'

[Miscellanea Ornithologica. Critical, Nomenclatorial, and other Notes, mostly on Palearctic Birds and their Allies. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 335 (1907). Part IV.]

Dr. Hartert continues his ornithological notes*, and points out that the proper name of the Asiatic Flycatcher usually called *Muscicapa luteola* is *M. mugimaki*, the true *M. luteola* of Pallas being the eastern form of *M. parva*. He then directs attention to the genera *Cryptolopha*, *Abrornis* (lege "*Habronis*"), *Tickellia*, and *Phylloscopus*, and shews how difficult it is to arrange the forms assigned to them in a satisfactory manner. He comments freely on Dr. Bianchi's recent review of these genera (Bull. Ac. Imp. Sc. Pétersb. sér. 5, vol. xxiii. p. 65), and corrects some of the identifications made by him and other authors. He adopts "*collybita*" of Vieillot (1817) as the specific name of the Chiffchaff, in place of the ordinary term "*rufus*," as has been done by Prof. Newton (B. B. i. p. 437); and attributes six subspecies to it.

64. Hellmayr on the Birds of the Lower Amazons.

[Another Contribution to the Ornithology of the Lower Amazons. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 1 (1907).]

Mr. Hoffmanns, whose collection of birds from the vicinity of Para formed the subject of a previous communication from Herr Hellmayr †, has lately sent to Tring two more consignments of Lower Amazonian birds, one from Santarem on the left bank of the Rio Tapajos and the other from Obidos on the north bank of the Amazons. We have here a report on these two collections.

The specimens from Santarem are referred to 78 species,

* Cf. 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 717.

† Cf. 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 720.

of which a systematic account is given, varied by disquisitions on the allied species and subspecies which have been examined and compared. *Synallaxis rutilans amazonica* and *S. r. tertia* are described as new subspecies.

We observe that *Alcedo dea* of Linnæus, which has hitherto been usually considered to refer to a Moluccan Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera dea*), is here used for a Jacamar, *Urogalba paradisea*, which is now called "*Urogalba dea dea*"! We fail to understand the necessity of this remarkable transfer, for which no sufficient reason is given.

In Herr Hellmayr's second chapter, on the collection from Obidos, 42 species are registered. None of these are new, but a specimen of the rare *Psittacula deliciosa* is the "first in any European Collection."

65. Hellmayr on Birds from Teffé, Amazons.

[On a Collection of Birds from Teffé, Rio Solimoes, Brazil. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xiv. p. 40 (1907).]

After leaving Obidos (see above) Mr. Hoffmanns went up the Amazons to Teffé (Ega) on the south bank of the great river, and procured for the Tring Museum an interesting collection, of which Herr Hellmayr gives us an account. It contains examples of 118 species, of which *Pipra hoffmannsi*, *Dysithamnus schistaceus heterogynus*, *Thamnomanes cæsius persimilis*, and *Rhamphocænus melanurus amazonum* are new species and subspecies. *Xenops genibarbis pelzelni* from S.E. Brazil is also described as a new subspecies in this paper.

Mr. Hellmayr makes it a principle to quote only "the original descriptions (of his birds) and such references as strictly pertain to the faunal district in question." He would save his brother ornithologists a great deal of trouble if he would add in each case a further reference to the work in which the name that he adopts may be found. For instance, where are we to look for "*Crocomorphus flavus*" (op. cit. p. 25) or *Leucolepia modulata rufigularis* (p. 41)?

It is also quite incorrect to add authors' names to designations which they never employed. For instance, we are

sure that "*Granatellus pelzelni pelzelni* Scl." is a combination which was never used by the author indicated by the "Scl."

66. *Howard's 'British Warblers.'*

[The British Warblers. A History, with Problems of their Lives. By H. Eliot Howard. Illustrated by Henrik Grönvold. Part I. London, 1907. Price 21s. net.]

In this Part Mr. Howard gives a very full account of the Sedge- and Grasshopper-Warblers. They are described at length in both adult and immature plumage; their geographical distribution is considered, and their life-history detailed and illustrated by a series of ten plates rendered by photogravure process. A coloured figure is also given of the first species, and two of the latter (male and female). The illustrations are admirable and some of the best of their kind that we have seen, while an excellent coloured plate of eggs forms a frontispiece to the Part. Perhaps a little less might have been said about sexual selection, in which Mr. Howard is no believer, but otherwise the letterpress is pleasant to read and gives most reliable information. In a few points only the author trusts too implicitly to his own observations, which do not agree precisely with those of others. Maps are added to show the distribution of the Grasshopper- and Savi's Warblers.

67. *'Irish Naturalist.'*

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. Vol. xv. Nos. 1-12 (1906). Eason & Sons, Dublin.]

In the earlier portion of the present volume is an interesting Memoir of the late Edward Williams of Dublin, a naturalist of great merit as well as an admirable taxidermist. He was a worker rather than a writer; nevertheless the list of his contributions to science fills more than a page and a half, and his records are absolutely trustworthy. Mr. R. J. Ussher's discovery of a mandible of the Hawfinch in Co. Clare caves is of great interest, for, as Prof. Newton observes, "eighty years ago or thereabouts Hawfinches were

accounted scarce *visitors* to England, and it was only a few years after that they were found to breed here." Mr. R. M. Barrington records the occurrence of the American Snowbird (*Junco hiemalis*) at Loop Head Lighthouse, Co. Clare, on May 30th, 1905, and as the latter part of his article seems to betray a doubt respecting an "assisted passage," we wish to point out that no stepping-stones are known to exist for this species between the American Continent and Ireland. Herr Winge strongly denies any authentic record for Greenland, and Temminck (who assigned "the banks of Newfoundland" to the Great Auk for a breeding-place) is alone responsible for the "migrations" of this Finch to Ireland. Therefore the crossing of the Atlantic between Ireland and Iceland by the White Wagtail, Wheatear, &c. are not parallel cases. The writer of this notice is unable to believe that a Finch can, without food, fly direct across 1760 miles of ocean, and that is the shortest distance claimed for the new route between Newfoundland and Ireland. Mr. Barrington has a second record—namely, that of *Hypolais polyglotta*, from Old Head Lighthouse, Kinsale, Co. Cork, on September 23rd, 1905. Mr. Robert Patterson institutes a comparison between the avifauna of Ireland and that of the Isle of Man, as set forth in Mr. P. G. Ralfe's recent work. A photograph of a surf-lashed basaltic cliff in Co. Derry shews the site of a nesting-place of the Tree-Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), a rare species in Ireland. Mr. N. H. Foster was the discoverer of this new locality. Many interesting records are to be found among the minor notices.—H. S.

68. *Jourdain on European Birds' Eggs.*

[The Eggs of European Birds. By the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain. Part II. London, 1907. 8vo. Pp. 81-160, pls. 16-20; 24, 25; 39, 40; 44; 52; 113; 121, 122.]

We have now received the second part of this most useful work, and congratulate the author on his success in bringing the subject so thoroughly up to date in a comparatively

small compass. His tendencies with regard to nomenclature we have already discussed ('Ibis,' 1906, p. 722).

The well-written text is extremely full of information, of which the completeness may be judged from the fact that we have only the following suggestions to offer. The Chaffinch occasionally nests on the ground, even in England; the Tree-Sparrow builds more commonly in walls, and the Rock-Pipit in grassy banks, than Mr. Jourdain seems to imagine; the Tree-Pipit sits more closely than the text would imply; and the Meadow-Pipit is credited with too great a love for marshy places as nesting-sites.

The plates, which are a great improvement on those of the earlier part, contain figures of the eggs of Larks, Pipits, Wagtails, Tits, Creepers, and Shrikes, of the Cuckoo, the Black Vulture, the Common Buzzard, the Rough-legged Buzzard, the Great Black-backed Gull, and the Great Auk. Of the eggs of the last-named four fine examples are depicted, but those of the Buzzards are on the whole a little dull; while the well-known grey specimens with blackish spots are not represented among those of the Tree-Pipit.

The letterpress treats of Finches, Buntings, Larks, Pipits, and Wagtails.

69. *Journal of the Danish Ornithologists' Union.*

[Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift. 1. Aargang. 1ste Hæfte. November, 1906. Redigeret af O. Helms.]

We have the pleasure of welcoming a new addition to the list of journals devoted to Ornithology, of which we have lately received the first number. It is the organ of the lately-formed Danish Ornithologists' Union (Dansk Ornithologisk Forening), and is edited by Prof. Helms, of Haslev. After an introduction explanatory of the general character of the new Journal we have an article by M. Klinge on the migratory birds of 1906, and a description by Mr. A. T. Hagerup of the nesting of *Sylvia nisoria* in Denmark. These are followed by shorter notes and notices. We are sure that many English ornithologists will be glad to know

of the existence of this new Journal and to study its contents.

70. Koenig on the Vultures of Egypt.

[Die Geier Aegyptens (mit 4 Heliographuren und 2 farbigen Tafeln). Bearbeitet von Dr. Alexander Koenig. Journ. f. Orn. 1907, pp. 59-92.]

This is a well-written essay on the five commonly known Vultures of Egypt, with which the author is well acquainted from personal experience, *Gypaëtus* being included in the list. Dr. Koenig shews that by several previous writers on Egyptian birds *Otogyps auricularis* has been mistaken for *Vultur monachus*, which would appear to be a much rarer species in Egypt than the former. Indeed Dr. Koenig states that he has never met with it himself in Egypt or Nubia.

On the other hand, we are rather surprised to see that *Gyps rueppelli* is not allowed a place in the Egyptian Avifauna. We believe that it certainly occurs in the Libyan Desert, living specimens of it having been obtained more than once by the Zoological Gardens of Giza from the Arabs of the Pyramids (see P. Z. S. 1895, p. 400, and 1896, p. 609). One of these birds is still living in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London.

We may remark that it is a great mistake to reduce *Gyps rueppelli* to the rank of a subspecies of *G. fulvus* as has been proposed by Erlanger (cf. J. f. O. 1904, pp. 14, 144, tab. ii.).

Six nicely drawn plates, two of which are coloured, illustrate this memoir.

71. Lampe's 'Catalogue of the Museum of Wiesbaden.'

[Katalog der Vögelsammlung des naturhistorischen Museums zu Wiesbaden. III. Teil. Von Custos E. Lampe. Wiesbaden, 1906.]

The third part of this catalogue completes the work (see 'The Ibis,' 1906, p. 726). It contains the Gallinæ, Hemipodii, Fulicariæ, and Alektorides, according to the classification of the B.M. Catalogue. The number of species registered is 1993.

72. *Lönberg on Birds from the Congo Free State.*

[Notes on Birds collected in the Congo Free State by the Swedish Missionary K. E. Laman. By Einar Lönberg. Ark. f. Zool. iii. no. 21 (1907).]

A collection of birds made by the Swedish missionary Mr. K. E. Laman in the Congo Free State, between Isangila and Manyanga, and presented to the Royal Natural-History Museum, Stockholm, contains examples of 95 species, which are here enumerated. Field-notes by the Collector and a few remarks by Dr. Lönberg are added. Some of the more uncertain specimens have been submitted to Dr. Reichenow.

73. *Lönberg on Changes in Names.*

[Einige Nomenklaturfragen. Von Prof. Dr. Einar Lönberg. J. f. O. 1906, p. 528.]

Although he "laments the necessity," Dr. Lönberg proposes to change the names of some of our best-known species of birds, e. g. *Astur palumbarius* to *Astur gentilis*, *Anas boschas* to *Anas platyrhyncha*, and *Muscicapa grisola* to *Muscicapa ficedula*. The reasons for these and other changes advocated by the author are by no means convincing, and we do not think that many writers will follow him in adopting such proposals.

74. *Low on the Birds of Hudson's Bay and the Arctic Islands.*

[Report on the Dominion Government Expedition to Hudson Bay and the Arctic Islands on board the D.G.S. 'Neptune,' 1903-4. By A. G. Low, B.Sc., F.G.S. Ottawa, 1906. 8vo. 356 pp.]

This report of the expedition which was sent out by the Government of Canada for the exploration of Hudson Bay and the lands to the north of it contains an Appendix, in which is given a list of the species of Birds and Eggs "identified or collected on the voyage," and some short field-notes on them, supplied by Mr. Low. The specimens were collected and preserved by Mr. Andrew Halkett

Naturalist to the expedition. The list contains the names of 44 species, mostly well-known sea- and water-birds, the Passeres numbering only eight. *Cygnus columbianus* was found to be common on Southampton Island, where it was breeding on the swampy ground about the ponds.

75. *Mearns on the Birds of San Clemente Island.*

[Mammals of the Mexican Boundary of the United States, a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Mammals occurring in that Region with a General Summary of the Natural History, and a List of Trees. By E. A. Mearns, M.D., Major and Surgeon, U.S. Army.—Part I. U.S. National Museum Bulletin 56. Washington, 1907.]

Hidden in the middle of the first volume of Dr. Mearns's account of the Mammals of the Mexican Boundary will be found (pp. 141-2) a list of 37 birds observed and collected on the island of San Clemente in August 1894. San Clemente lies out in the Pacific, about 60 miles from the nearest mainland in the State of California. Adding to his own list two species of which examples were procured on San Clemente by Mr. C. H. Townshend in 1888 and 1889, and eleven others recorded by Mr. J. Grinnell in 1897, Dr. Mearns gives 50 species as the total number of the Avifauna of this island. Mr. Grinnell's report appears to have been issued as "Publication No. I. of the Pasadena Academy of Sciences," of which we have never seen a copy. Four or five of the Passerine birds of San Clemente have been separated as "subspecies" by the American ornithologists.

76. *Newton's 'Ootheca Wolleyana.'*

[*Ootheca Wolleyana*: an Illustrated Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs formed by the late John Wolley, Jun., M.A., F.Z.S. Edited from the Original Notes by Alfred Newton. Part IV. Alcæ—Anseres: with Supplement and Appendix. London: R. H. Porter, 1907.]

With the greatest pleasure we welcome the issue of Part IV. of the '*Ootheca Wolleyana*,' which brings this excellent piece of work to its conclusion.

Professor Newton's chief object in preparing these volumes was, we believe, to preserve the memory of his great personal friend and fellow-worker John Wolley, the

celebrated Oologist, who died in 1859, at the early age of 36. On Wolley's death his collection of eggs, to the formation of which he had devoted the best part of his life, was presented by his father (the Rev. J. F. Wolley) to Prof. Newton, "together with all the books and papers thereto pertaining." As the result has fully shown, no better disposition could have been made of them, and it was, in fact, in compliance with Wolley's last wishes that this course was adopted.

Prof. Newton, after consulting his friends as to the best use that he could make of this valuable property, came to the wise conclusion that a systematic catalogue of the contents of Wolley's Egg-cabinets, accompanied by notes from the collector's "Egg-book" and memoranda from his journals, would be the best way of utilizing the bequest for the benefit of Science. In April 1864, accordingly, he published the first half of the first volume of the present work. His course of action is described in the Preface as follows:—"In preparing this work for the press, the plan I have adopted has been to bring together systematically all the notes relating to the same species, and to arrange them for the most part in the order of the time at which they were written. I have not scrupled to add an account of such specimens as I have lately obtained, and of those which were included in the joint collections formed by my brother Edward and myself, prior to its incorporation with the contents of Mr. Wolley's cabinets. In doing this, I believe I have only acted as my late friend would have wished; for I am sure that, in leaving his collection to me, he expected that I should continue to make it as perfect as I could. These interpolations, however, are in all cases typographically distinguished from Mr. Wolley's text; so that there is no fear of my words being mistaken for his."

The first part of the 'Ootheca Wolleyana' relates to the eggs of the Accipitres and Striges of which specimens are in the Collection. It contains 180 pages and is illustrated by 18 plates. Of these, 9 coloured plates represent eggs and 8 nesting-places and nests, while one (Plate C) is a beautiful figure of the Gyrfalcon (*Falco gyrfalco*) drawn by

Wolf. This part also contains an excellent picture of Wolley, and a memoir of his life and work.

After the issue of Part I. of the 'Ootheca' there followed a long interval, during which the pressure of other work prevented the author from proceeding with it. It must not, however, be supposed that the great Collection of Eggs stood still and remained uncared for all this time. Far from this being the case, it was continually augmented by the addition of such well-authenticated specimens as Prof. Newton could secure by gift or purchase. At length it was whispered among his friends that "The Professor" had resumed work on the 'Ootheca' and was resolved to finish it. This report was happily true, and in 1902 Part II. of the 'Ootheca,' completing the first volume, was issued. We have already noticed it in 'The Ibis' for 1903 (p. 126) and have there summarized its contents. It contains all the Picariæ and commences the Passeres. It has five coloured plates of eggs and four lithographic drawings of scenery. In 1905, Part III., forming the first half of the second volume (Columbæ—Alcæ) was published. It was reviewed in the first number of this Journal for 1906 (p. 201). Besides 384 pages of letterpress, it contains 8 coloured plates of the eggs of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*). All the originals of these figures are in the Wolley Collection.

We have now before us Part IV. of the 'Ootheca,' which embraces the remaining orders of Birds and concludes the second volume of this attractive work, which contains altogether 666 pages. A map is added to shew the district of Lapland which Wolley habitually frequented, and a frontispiece gives a view of Muonivara, his usual resort, from the south-east. In an Appendix (separately paged) are reprinted all the publications of Wolley on Natural History, except those included in the body of the work. They relate to Mammals, Reptiles, and Insects, as well as Birds, and shew the versatility of his genius.

In fine, we must specially recommend this most interesting book to our oological friends, and advise them to apply early for copies, as it is certain to go speedily out of print.

77. *North on a new Honey-eater.*

[Description of a new Genus and Species of Honey-eater from Rennell Island, Solomon Group. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., &c. Vict. Nat. xxiii. no. 5 (1906).]

This new Honey-eater, which it is proposed by Mr. North to call *Woodfordia superciliosa*, is based on a spirit-specimen sent to the Australian Museum, Sydney, by Mr. C. M. Woodford, C.M.Z.S., the British Resident in the Solomon Group. It is from the little-known Rennell Island, which Mr. Woodford has lately visited.

Woodfordia is remarkable for its large bill, short tail, thick tarsi, and stout fleshy feet, and is allied to *Melidectes* and *Melipotes*.

78. *Proceedings of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress.*

[Proceedings of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress, London, June 1905, forming Volume XIV. of the *Ornis*. Edited, under the direction of the President, R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., by the Secretaries, Ernst J. O. Hartert, Ph.D., and J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A. With Eighteen Plates. London: Dulau & Co. February, 1907.]

In 'The Ibis' for 1905 (p. 622) we gave an account of the very successful meeting of the International Ornithological Congress, which took place in London in June of that year. We have now received a copy of the official report of the Proceedings of the meeting, which, as will be seen by the title, constitutes also the fourteenth volume of 'Ornis,' the serial publication of the International Congress.

The volume, after a short preface signed by the President, begins with a formal record of the proceedings of the Congress during its session in London, and of its excursions to Woburn, Cambridge, and Bridlington. Then comes the President's Address, which extends over fifty pages. It relates entirely to the history of the great collection of Birds in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, which, we are told, now contains at least 400,000 specimens. Beginning with 1753, when Sir Hans Sloane's collections were acquired for the nation for the sum of £20,000, and the purchase of Montague House in Bloomsbury for the purpose of storing them, Dr. Sharpe recounts the

whole story of the additions made down to the present epoch. Nearly all the best known English naturalists have contributed more or less to the famous Collection of Birds. We read of the names of Willughby, Ray, Montagu, Latham, G. R. Gray, Gould, Swinhoe, Wallace, Hose, Selater, Salvin and Godman, and numerous others who have advanced the good work. Many, if not most, of the private collections of birds made of late years have by bequest, presentation, or purchase become National property, and have largely increased the value and importance of this great Collection. It will thus be seen, says Dr. Sharpe in concluding his address, "that nearly every private collection in England has passed with the willing consent of the owners into the British Museum, while the donation of the great collections of Mr. Allan Hume, the Marquess of Tweeddale, Dr. Godman, Mr. Salvin, Mr. Seebohm, Mr. Philip Crowley, and so forth, have contributed to its renown."

After the Presidential Address the rest of the volume of 'Proceedings' is occupied by the papers read at the General Meetings of the Congress and at the various Sections. The Sections adopted were five in number:—i. Systematic Ornithology; ii. Migration; iii. Biology; iv. Economic Ornithology; and v. Aviculture. The forty papers read before the Congress are arranged nearly in this order, and are illustrated by eighteen plates. We cannot afford space to give even the titles of them, but they relate to Bird-life in its different aspects and deserve the careful study of all ornithologists.

Three important communications of Count Berlepsch, of which he has favoured us with separate copies, have been noticed under that author's name (see above, pp. 483-4).

79. Reports of the U.S. National Museum.

[(1) Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the Year ending June 30th, 1905. Report of the U.S. National Museum. Washington, 1905.

(2) Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the Year ending June 30th, 1906. Report of the U.S. National Museum. Washington, 1906.]

Some years ago the Reports of the Smithsonian Insti-

tution (which contain the Reports of the U.S. National Museum) were very late in their appearance. This is, however, no longer the case, as the two reports now before us bring the account of the progress of this important Institution up to the end of the first half of 1906.

The Report for 1905 commences with a short history of the National Museum, which was in fact planned and commenced by the late Prof. Baird about 1850. Although the means granted to the establishment for making purchases have always been very limited, yet the accumulation of specimens received from various expeditions and surveys, besides private donations, have quickly converted the old building devoted to its use into a mere store-house, and the absolute necessity of a new structure with far more accommodation has long been recognised. After a tedious and regrettable (though perhaps, under the circumstances, unavoidable) delay the work of erecting the new building was commenced in 1904, and will, we believe, be shortly brought to a conclusion, when the collections, which embrace a very large and most important series of birds, will be properly housed.

The chief additions made to the bird-collection during the previous year are mentioned in the Report, and those of Dr. Abbott, from the Malay Archipelago, and Surgeon Mearns, from the Philippines, are specially noticed, as is also the receipt of a fine series of birds from Costa Rica contributed by the National Museum of that Republic. We have already spoken of the successful visit of Prof. Ridgway to that attractive country in 1904-5*, which is also described in this Report. The total number of specimens of birds obtained by Prof. Ridgway on this occasion, besides those presented by the Costa-Rican Museum as above mentioned, was 1359. The number of specimens of birds (besides eggs) in the Museum is stated in this Report to be 140,878.

In the Report for 1905-6 the good, if somewhat slow, progress of the building of the new Museum is recorded, and certain alterations recently sanctioned are stated to "insure the acquisition of a structure of exceptional dignity and

* See 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 396.

merit, which will rank among the finest museum-buildings in the world." Among the acquisitions the collections received from Dr. Abbott and Mr. Mearns are again specially alluded to.

80. *Robinson on the Birds of the Aroa Islands.*

[A Visit to the Aroa Islands, with a List of the Birds found there. By Herbert C. Robinson, M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S. Journ. Fed. Malay States Museums, vol. ii. no. 1 (1906).]

Pulau Jemor, one of the Aroa Islands, a group situated in the Straits of Malacca twenty-five miles east of Sumatra, was visited by Mr. Robinson in August and again in November, in which month it is frequented by many birds on migration. His list contains the names of 40 species, mostly well-known Malaccan forms. Two species of *Pitta* (*P. cyanoptera* and *P. cucullata*) were abundant. Two specimens of *Larvivora cyanea* (not yet recorded from Sumatra) were obtained in November.

81. *Sharpe on the Collection of Birds in the British Museum.*

[The History of the Collections contained in the Natural History Department of the British Museum. Vol. II. Sect. 3, Birds, by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe. London, 1906.]

The history of the Birds of the National Collection at South Kensington takes up by far the largest portion of the second volume of this series, and extends to no less than 435 pages. It is the product of the ever-active pen of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, to whose unabating energy the enormous increase in the number and value of the specimens, particularly of late years, is mainly due. Dr. Sharpe tells us here the long story of the progress of the Collection from the days of Sir Hans Sloane (1753) to the present time, and gives us much valuable information upon the various contributions, by gift and purchase, which have made up the magnificent aggregate. We have not space to go into the many particulars of its progress, but may say that the shares taken in forming the collection by Dr. J. E. Gray, Mr. G. R. Gray, Dr. Günther, and Dr. Sharpe himself

are fully stated, and that the result is a very interesting disquisition on this subject which should be read by all ornithologists.

Much new information is given by Dr. Sharpe concerning the little-known "Watling's Drawings" (1778-1792) which were acquired by the Museum in 1902, and upon which Latham founded many new species of birds. A complete list of these drawings, 295 in number, is added, and valuable explanations regarding the species to which they should be referred are afforded. Similar important explanations are also given respecting the drawings of Parkinson, Foster, and Ellis, upon which other species of birds were founded by Latham.

The second part of Dr. Sharpe's article contains a detailed chronological account of the accessions made to the bird-collection from 1809 to the present time. It also contains a full history of the celebrated sale of the "Bullock Collection" in 1819, at which some, but unfortunately not all, of the historic specimens were purchased by Dr. Leach for the British Museum. The chief additions made every year from 1837 (when the official Register of acquisitions was commenced) to 1905 are successively enumerated. The article then concludes with an alphabetical list of the principal donors, collectors, and agents from whom the specimens of birds now in the British Museum have been received. This occupies some two hundred pages, and will be of very great use to working ornithologists. It is the more interesting as it is interspersed with many particulars about the lives and work of the more prominent persons who have contributed to the great National Bird-collection.

In concluding, we cannot but express our wonder that Dr. Sharpe should have found time to collect and put together in an accessible form so much valuable information on this subject.

The following passage from the volume gives the names of some of the principal contributors to the great collection which Dr. Sharpe has for the past thirty years had under his charge:—"Thanks to the donations of Mr. Allan Hume, Col. Wardlaw Ramsay, Dr. Godman, Mr. Osbert Salvin,

Mr. Radcliffe Saunders, and to the bequests of the late Mr. Seebohm and Mr. Philip Crowley, the ornithological collection of the British Museum has been gradually raised to the foremost position. I believe that the utmost estimate of the number of bird-skins and eggs in it in the year 1872, when I took office, would be 30,000 or 35,000 at the most. At the present moment the series is more than 400,000 in number, of which the eggs alone are nearly 100,000!!”

82. *Waddell on the Birds of Tibet.*

[Lhasa and its Mysteries, with a Record of the Expedition of 1903-4. By L. Austine Waddell, LL.D., C.B., &c. Third Edition, 1906.]

Besides the collection of which Capt. Walton gave us an excellent account last year (see ‘Ibis,’ 1906, p. 57), a second collection of birds was made during the British expedition to Lhasa by Dr. Waddell, one of the principal medical officers. Part of this collection was examined by Mr. Dresser, who described as new three species represented in it (*Babax waddelli*, *Garrula tibetanus*, and *Lanius lama*) before the Zoological Society in 1905 (see P. Z. S. 1905, vol. i. p. 54), and made a few remarks on other species included in it. In the interesting and well-illustrated narrative of the expedition to Lhasa contained in the present work there are some allusions to birds, and in an Appendix “On the Fauna of Central Tibet” a general description of the principal species observed is given. Dr. Waddell agrees with Captain Walton in stating that the Lammergeyer (*Gypaëtus barbatus*), in company with the large *Gyps himalayensis*, was the common carrion-feeder on the carcasses of the dead transport animals “which lined the way” of the Expedition.

83. *Wytsman's 'Genera Avium.'*

[Genera Avium, conducted by P. Wytsman. 6th Part*. Picariæ, Fam. Coliidae. By P. L. Selater, D.Sc., F.R.S. 1906. Price 3s. 7d.

7th Part. Steganopodes, Fam. Pelecanidae. By Dr. A. Dubois. 1907.

8th Part. Picariæ, Fam. Musophagidae. By Dr. A. Dubois. 1907.]

The sixth part of Wytsman's ‘Genera Avium’ is devoted

* For previous notices of the ‘Genera Avium,’ see ‘Ibis,’ 1906, p. 211, and 1904, pp. 171, 309.

to a synopsis of the Coliidae—one of the most characteristic and peculiar forms of the Ethiopian Avifauna. Mr. Pycraft, after a critical examination of every part of the structure of these birds, has come to the conclusion (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 253) that the Colies, which are admitted by everyone to be a very isolated group, have their nearest allies in the Swifts (Cypselidæ).

The author of the present synopsis inclines rather to Garrod's view that they are related "on the one hand to the Picidæ, and on the other to the Alcedinidæ and Bucerotidæ." He admits only eight forms of *Colius* as sufficiently distinct for specific rank, although several of these, after the fashion now prevalent, have been separated into various geographical forms. Thus *C. erythromelon* has been divided into five subspecies, and *C. leucotis* into four.

A coloured plate, drawn by Keulemans, represents *Colius leucocephalus*, and gives details of the structure of some of the other species.

In the 7th Part of the 'Genera Avium' Dr. Dubois discusses the family Pelecanidæ, which contains only the single genus *Pelecanus*. Of this group eleven forms are recognised. But we cannot agree with the author in ranking the South-American *P. molinæ* as only a subspecies of *P. fuscus*. It is a perfectly distinct species. We are doubtful of *P. sharpii* (of which a coloured figure is given) being anything more than a colour-phase of *P. onocrotalus*.

Dr. Dubois also gives us in Part 8 a summary of our knowledge of the peculiar Ethiopian family Musophagidæ. The author recognises 33 species and subspecies, which he places in 7 genera. Two nicely coloured plates illustrate the varied forms of this group.

XXVII.—*Letters, Notes and Extracts.*

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—In the autumn of 1905 I had the pleasure of meeting, in London, several members of the "Ziegler Polar